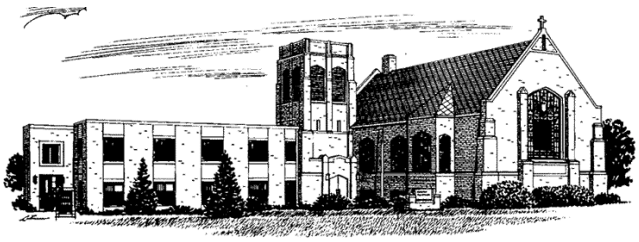


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

April 2015

This Lenten season we have pondered the Way of the Cross. I have been deeply appreciative of the varied voices who have offered our powerful mid-week meditations. Thank you to Tyler, Alissa, Connor, Rev. Slater, and Denise for doing so. Our journey continues as we lift our palms on Palm Sunday, wash feet on Maundy Thursday, and on a Friday we call good, reflect on the Scripture passages that accompany 8 of the sites that are associated with the passion of Jesus. (Our 12:15 service will be a more traditional Good Friday service and our 7 pm service will observe the Stations of the Cross, as well as its adoration.)

But our journey does not stop there for we are an Easter people. Our first celebration will be at the Vigil of Easter, Saturday evening. If you have never been before, I invite you to make this year your first. We begin outside in the courtyard with the lighting of a new fire, and then move inside for the telling of the stories of salvation. These stories are accompanied by various artistic expressions. As persons marked with the cross of Christ forever, we move to the font and make Affirmation of our Baptism. And then we sing our first Alleluias, hear the Easter story, and share our Lord's Supper together. The celebration continues on Easter morning with bells, trombone, and the singing of our Alleluias!

Still our journey does not end. As Easter people we give thanks and praise to God and proclaim God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. We go into the world in peace to share the Good News!

Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –
We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Serving in the military:
Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

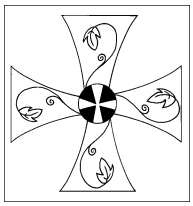
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in April 2015

APR . 1 - Sharon Sible
Shadden Talbert-Gulley
3 - Brian Culverhouse
4 – Cheryl Houser
Shawn de la Foret
Whitney (Johnson) Burk
Elizabeth Gaspari
6 - Betty Appel
8 - Janet Larson
11 - Alaina Bradley
13 - Marilyn Lucy
14 - Lorelei Gorman
Brandon Borr
15 - Carleen Knauf
19 - Robert Kynast
21 - Fritz Knauf
Andy Wedde
23 – Juliet Jacob
25 - C'Ella Mae Williams
Clem Brueck
26 - Tom Siewert
Michael Breyen
27 - Linda Pater
28 - Brooke Henderson

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

Please submit any corrections to the church office at 983-1273. Thanks.



In Sympathy
We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of Barb Reid upon her death, March 14. Barb's funeral was at Saron on Wednesday, December 18.

God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday April 5 —
Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Sunday April 12 –
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1—2:2

Sunday April 19 –
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday April 26 —
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Thank You Notes

Pastor Oleson,
Just a thank you for thinking and praying for our family during our very difficult time! The lasagna, salad and garlic bread were delicious and so appreciated. Please express our thank you to Krin and Kathie for preparation and delivery! My mom finds so much comfort at church and loves all of her friends there.

Thank you again!
Henry Breyen Family
Pat, Becki, Mike and Al

Saron Family,
Thank you so much for the love you have shown to our family. Your kindness and support continues to show what a true church family is, and it is a blessing to be a part of.

Barb Reid family

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

The 2015 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. Please bring back the empty vases to give back to the florist. THANKS!

Learning book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Sunday School and Good Gifts

Our Sunday School children became involved in our Lenten "Good Gifts" project. One of the "Good Gifts' that Saron's members could purchase was a share of a Community Garden.We discussed the meaning of the garden and how it could benefit many people in a community.

Each of the children planted their own garden container. The beans, peas, and sweet peppers are growing quickly, to the delight of the children. Hopefully their plants will grow and produce vegetables, enough to share with others!

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day

The Wednesday Bible study will begin again on April 15. We meet at 1:00 p.m. in the lounge and discuss the Scriptures for the next Sunday.

Thursday Morning Study

The Thursday morning Bible study continues its reading of the Apocrypha. The texts of the Apocrypha are essential reading for filling in the 400-year gap between the Old and New Testaments. The weekly study is at 9:30 a.m. and will resume on April 9.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will be on April 4th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study
Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. David Slater leads us in our studies. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). We are not meeting during Lent but rather encourage everyone to participate in the Wednesday evening soup suppers and worship. We'll resume our studies on Tuesday, April 7. For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

First Communion Instruction

A class for those desiring to take their First Communion will be offered this Spring. If your child is interested, please contact Pastor.

Adult Inquirer's Class
Gatherings for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith from the Lutheran perspective or joining Saron is planned for April 12 & 19 during the Sunday School hour. You are encouraged to attend both sessions.

If you are interested, please let Pastor know.

1st Sunday Book Group
Join us on **April 12th** when our book for discussion is "The Gold Finch" by Donna Tartt. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, this literary novel follows the life of Theo, taken in as a young boy by a wealthy family after the death of his mother. Amazon's review describes Tartt's tale as "an old-fashioned story of loss and obsession, survival and self invention, and the ruthless machinations of fate". Sounds like some good material for discussion.

Then on May 3rd, "The Rosie Project", by Graeme Simsion, introduces us to Don. "He relies on logic instead of emotion and is baffled by his interactions with other people. Then he meets break-the-rules Rosie and discovers a love that defies all logic." (Book Page review by Carrie Rollwagen) This book is funny and clever, a perfect way to wrap up our reading season until next October.

We meet at 6:30 in the up-stairs lounge.
Please come and be a part of our lively discussions and bring a friend along. Questions? Call Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

Outreach

Meet me at the Freezer
Saron has meals available in the dining room freezer. Please take one to another member, friend or neighbor - anyone in need. A meal, hug, phone call or visit are all ways we can show God's love.

Contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044 for more information.

BLOOD DRIVE
In February Michigan Blood held a Blood Drive at Saron. 18 pints of blood were officially donated on that day. It was a special day for two of Saron's members - Pat Breyen and Elizabeth Kunkel; they were given pins from Michigan Blood for each having donated a GALLON of blood. Wow! Congratulations and keep on giving!

PLEASE mark you calendars for Saron's next Blood Drive - June 18.

Thank you , Keith Stevens and Joyce Marquardt

CROP WALK MAY 17TH
The sun is shining! The birds are singing! What better way to celebrate Spring and the Risen Son than to take a walk that not only provides fresh air and exercise but also helps feed the hungry and helps provide the tools to lift people from poverty. See Jan Stevens, Steve Bell or Elizabeth Kunkel for further details.

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Used Eye Glass Collection

If you have any used glasses that are no longer of use to you, bring them in and place them in the box located in the narthex. They are collected by the local Lions organization for their mission trips to assist people to see once again. The work is an ongoing task of the Lions. Thank You

Keith Stevens, St. Joseph Township Lions

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

Just a reminder - we are always in need of LARGE cans of fruit (any kind).

God's work.Our Hands. Thank you, Jan Stevens

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2015th at the home of Mary Kynast. The Bible study leader will be Colleen Lundgren.

MARK THE DATE

Our annual women's retreat will be held on Saturday April 25 from 9:00 until 3:30. Linda Pater will host the event at her home. The cost is $10.00 per person which includes breakfast and lunch. We encourage all women of the church to join us for a day of fun, fellowship and lively discussion. Guests are welcome. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Linda Pater at 468-3303.

Rummage Sale

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, Saron Church Women will be having a rummage sale in the church dining room. Please save items for the sale. We will let you know later when items may be brought to the church. Thank you.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39

> "God has skillfully created us and blessed us with more than we could ever imagine. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! God knows us deeply and has created each of us uniquely. God has entrusted us with an abundance of tangible and intangible resources – time, talents, treasure and so much more. "
> *ELCA Steward's of God's Love, p7*

We thank God for the loving people of Saron. For their generosity, their willingness to give of themselves and their willingness to share abundantly. May we continue to work diligently to love God and serve in His mission here at Saron.

God's work. Our Hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock contact our representative , Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric or Denise.

Council News

Attendance Record	
02/22/2015	*89*
03/01/2015	*78*
03/08/2015	*81*
3/15/2015	*84*
3/22/2015	*97*

Saron's Council Members – 2015

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Treasurer
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Secretary
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Dave Bradley (427-70834) - Support
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Youth

WE'RE GOING TO DETROIT!

Saron's youth are heading to Detroit for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. You can help us get there through one of our fundraisers!

POP CANS

Please save your returnable pop cans. They can be dropped off into the bin at the office door. Or, you can return your bottles and cans and bring in the receipt for the youth to redeem. Thank you!

STOCK SALE

We, Saron's youth, will be selling stock "with a twist." Buy stock; watch a job get done! It's a win/win project!

On Sundays, April 12, 19, and 26 we will sell "stock" for $1/share. In exchange, we will do some work projects around the church – mow the lawn, do yard work, paint the yellow lines on the parking lot, clean the pews with Murphy Oil Soap, and the like. A bulletin board at church will offer more details.

Thanks ahead of time for your support! Those purchasing stock will be invited to an ice cream social to hear all about our trip.

Facilities

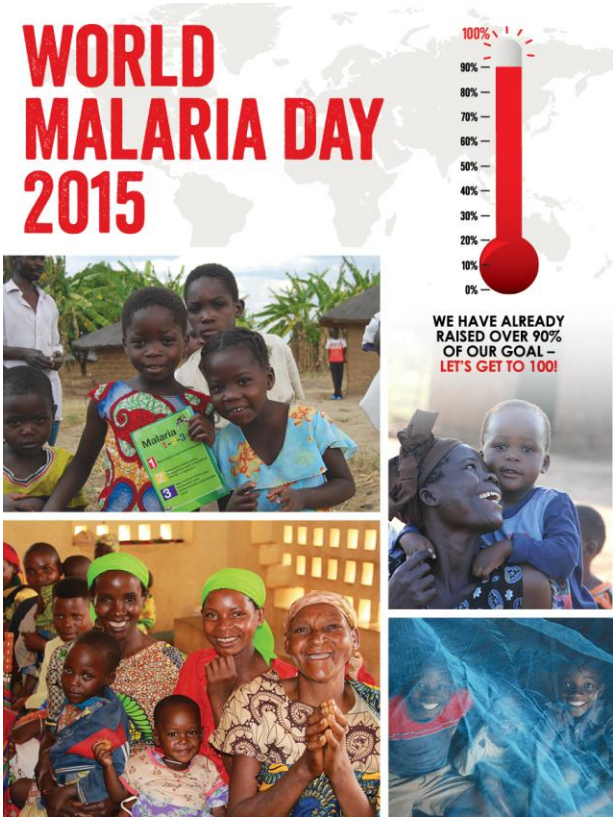
A COUPLE OF REQUESTS

Is your group using the building? Please make sure you are placed on the church calendar. As the building gets used more and more we need to make sure that we don't have conflicts regarding space. Requests for building use will be processed through the church office.

Also….
Help us be good neighbors! If you are taking out the garbage at Saron, please make sure it gets into Saron's garbage can next to our "out building" near the alley and not in one of our neighbor's garbage cans. And if the garbage can is full, place the plastic bag next to the garbage can or if you have the ability to take it home, we invite you to do so. This includes recyclables. Thank you so much!

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren , Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.



On Sunday, April 26, Saron will observe World Malaria Sunday at our worship.

Living Water Ministries
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp. Here's the link to our synod's camp. There are programs in the following areas – elementary, junior high, senior high, service trips, day camp, and specialized programs. For more information, contact Pastor.
http://www.elcalivingwater.com/

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our synod, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, or read synod news, check out the synod website at www.mittensynod.org.

North/West Lower Michigan Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Check out www.elca.org for news of our churchwide organization. You can also find stories about life in the ELCA on http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran. There are stories, blogs, photos, and a feature called "Ask a Pastor.

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

"Good Gifts" Tree

Each blossom represents a contribution of a Good Gift to the ELCA. These gifts include money for fruit tree seedlings, water jugs, honey bees, a share of a community garden, or a share of a pair of oxen and a cart. We are watching the number of blooms grow each week, through Easter.

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR APRIL 2015

April 2 (Maundy Thursday) 7:00 p.m.
Reader/Com. Assist: Jim Oleson
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Acolytes:

April 3 (Good Friday) 7:00 p.m.
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen

April 5 (Easter Sunday) 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Jan Stevens
Reader/Com.Assist: Sue Rood
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Ushers: Fritz Knauf and Jim Manore
Nursery: Krista Blaylock

April 5 (Easter Sunday) 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Connor Ashley
Reader/Com. Assist: Dan Fortenbacher
Acolyte: Drew Huff, Austin Kamala & Grant Gacek
Ushers: Andy and Joyce Marquardt
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and
Building Closing: Jerry and Ruth Stelling

April 12 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Sue Rood
Reader Intinction: Dana Riley
Acolytes: Brandon Burrow
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen
Nursery: Krista Blaylock

April 12 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Connor Ashley
Reader/Intinction: Laurel Gacek
Acolytes: Connor Ashley
Ushers: Ken Ark and Austin Kamala
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

April 19 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/Com. Assist: Marilyn Frey
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Allen Snyder
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery: Krista Blaylock

April 19 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Denise Cook
Reader/Com. Assist: Debra Adam-Hurst
Ushers: Dave and Patty Young
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and
Building Closing: Dan Gustafson

April 26 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Pauline Ngonyani
Reader/Intinction: Steve Bell
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink
Acolyte: Carter Hohman
Nursery: Krista Blaylock

April 26 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Intinction: Bob Kynast
Ushers: Dave and Kathie Bradley
Acolyte: Austin Kamala
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and
Building Closing: Bruce and Linda Huff

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer. Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2015

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Holy Week Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 29
Procession with Palms 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday – April 2
Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar
12:15 PM & 7:00 PM

Good Friday – April 3
Adoration of the Cross
12:15 PM & 7:00 PM

Vigil of Easter – April 4
7:00 PM

Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord
Sunday, April 5
Holy Communion – 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Easter Breakfast between services
Easter Egg Hunt – 10:15 AM

APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	*Maundy Thursday* 2 12:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion Stripping of the Altar	***Good Friday*** 3 12:15 pm & 7:00 p.m. Worship Adoration of the Cross	4 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Worship Vigil of Easter with Communion
Holy Communion 5 *Resurrection of Our Lords: Easter Day* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship **NO** Learning Classes 9:30-10:30amEaster Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt	6 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	7 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	8 9:30am Golden Hammers NO 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	9 9:30a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	10	11
Second Sunday of Easter 12 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning Adult Inquirers' Class 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Club	13 9am Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	14 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	15 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	16 9:30a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	17	18
Third Sunday of Easter 19 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning Adult Inquirers' Class	20 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	21 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	22 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	23 9:30a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	24	25 9:00 – 3:30 p.m. Women's Retreat
26 *Fourth Sunday of Easter* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning	27 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	28 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	29 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	30 9:30a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal		